

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JAMES

WHAT JAMES LEARNED FROM LIVING WITH HIS BROTHER JESUS

- I. There are certain **realities** of life common to all believers – 1:2-1:18.
 - A. Trials and testing will come and can be overcome -- 1:2-8.
 1. Be joyful -- 1:2.
 2. Persevere -- 1:3-4.
 3. Ask for wisdom -- 1:5.
 4. Eliminate doubt -- 1:6-8.
 - B. Riches are attractive but transient -- 1:9-11.
 1. The poor should glory in their humble position -- 1:10.
 2. Pursuit of money will pass away -- 1:11.
 - C. Trials of life are the basis for eternal rewards now and later -- 1:12.
 - D. Temptation is inevitable, yet not from God.
 1. Understand the process -- 1:16
 2. Only good comes from God, including salvation -- 1:17-18
- II. Each believer should develop certain **responses** to the **realities** of life -- 1:19-2:13.
 - A. Anger does not promote God's purpose -- 1:19-20.
 - B. Moral cleansing is critical -- 1:21
 - C. Doing and not just listening to the word of God -- 1:22-25
 1. Care for widows and orphans, for instance -- 1:26.
 2. Eliminate favoritism for rich over poor -- 2:1-4.
 - a. Rich are a source of problems and not worth the special treatment -- 2:5-7
 - b. The royal law requires that all be treated equally -- 2:8-9.
 - c. Break this command to treat all as yourself and all the law is broken -- 2:10-11
 3. Be a source of mercy and not judgment -- 2:12-13.

- III. There are certain **requirements** to be met if a believer is to have the proper response to the **realities** of life -- 2:14-3:18.
 - A. **Faith** demands proof -- 2:14-26.
 - 1. Faith is more than adherence to doctrine -- 2:18-24.
 - 2. Faith without appropriate works is dead -- 2:25-26.
 - B. The **tongue** must be ruled -- 3:1-12.
 - 1. Not many should desire to be teachers -- 3:1-2.
 - 2. The tongue, though small, is powerful -- 3:3-8.
 - 3. The tongue can be used for both good and evil -- 3:9-12.
 - C. **Wisdom** must be sought -- 3:13-18.
 - 1. Wisdom, like faith, must be shown in deeds -- 3:13.
 - 2. There is an earthly wisdom that must be rejected -- 3:14-16.
 - 3. Godly wisdom brings harmony and peace -- 3:17-18.
- IV. Lessons on how to **rule** the basic **relationships** of life -- 4:1-5:6.
 - A. Rule lust and pleasure-seeking, which are the basic causes for disputes with others -- 4:1-3.
 - B. Rule pride, which is a major reason why the Lord will resist you in your relationship with Him -- 4:4-6.
 - 1. Overcome pride by drawing near to God in humility and resisting the devil -- 4:7-10.
 - 2. Do not be proud and slander others -- 4:11-12.
 - 3. Do not be proud and boast about tomorrow -- 4:13-17.
 - 4. Do not be proud and trust in riches -- 5:1-6.
- V. Other **resources** necessary for a blessed life -- 5:7-20.
 - A. Patience -- 5:7-11.
 - B. Simplicity of speech -- 5:12.
 - C. Prayer -- 5:13-18.
 - D. Reaching out to others -- 5:19-20.